

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 22, No. 7

July 15, 1954

Whole No. 262



American Indian Weekly

A short-lived weekly published by Arthur Westbrook.
Noted for its ghoulish cover illustrations, example above.
Jesse James appears in a few of the stories.

CHARLES ASBURY STEPHENS

by Esther J. Judkins

Conclusion

Stories about the Old Farm in Maine were always signed with the familiar C. A. Stephens. However, for much of his writing for the *Companion* Stephens used various pen names to avoid more than a single use of his own name in any one issue of the paper. The most common one was Charles Adams, although at other times he signed his stories Howard Questor, Allen French, and sometimes used feminine names such as Wilhelmina Sparks or Adeline Knapp.

Stephens also produced numerous juvenile books for boys. At the instigation of James R. Osgood, a Boston publisher, he began in 1872 to write the "Camping Out" series, named from the first volume of the group. Following this came *Off to the Geyers*, *Lynx Hunting*, *Fox Hunting*, *Left on Labrador* (1873) and *On the Amazon* (1874). These books met with such success that they brought their author six thousand dollars in the first year and a half after their publication.

The first series that Stephens wrote was so well accepted that he began another called the "Knockabout Club" published by Estes and Lauriat of Boston. *Knockabout Club in the Woods* was copyrighted in 1881. Then came the *Knockabout Club Alongshore* (1882) and *Knockabout Club in*

the Tropics (1883). The most popular of his books for boys were, however, the *Young Moosehunters* (1882), a story of hunting in the Maine woods, and *Katahdin Camps* (1928), the experiences of a party of boys on a trip to Northern Maine.

Of the latter book John Minot, at one time literary editor and critic of the *Boston Herald*, stated:

In the closing chapters Mr. Stephens tells briefly of the later life of the boys in the party. It is by touches like these that Mr. Stephens gives all his stories the irresistible sense of verity. Conceivably this story, like many of its predecessors, may be largely a work of the imagination, but everything in it might have happened and the author leaves the reader with the feeling that it really did happen. His massing up of details, whether of farm life or of events in the woods, and his accuracy in every detail used, set him apart and on a higher plane from most of those who write primarily for young readers.

A trip to Washington, D. C., in the spring of 1872 was the beginning of Stephens' travels in search of material for the *Youth's Companion*. In July of that year he went to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in 1884 to Cuba, to London and Paris in 1898, Central America in 1904 and Alaska

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Vol. 22, No. 7

July 15, 1954

Whole No. 262

Published Monthly at

821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by

Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Assistant Editor for Photography—Charles Duprez, Bellerose, L. I., N. Y.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

and British Columbia in 1907.

In 1885 Ford, dissatisfied with the weekly health column of the **Companion**, asked Stephens to attend medical school to prepare himself to write the column for the paper; and so Stephens went to Boston University School of Medicine to study a profession he was never to practice, graduating in 1887 with the degree of M.D. For many years thereafter he wrote the health column for the **Companion** giving short and practical advice about the common ailments of mankind.

April 30, 1871, Stephens had married his second cousin, Christine Stephens who was the granddaughter of Jonas, the son of Joseph, the first settler of Norway. Jonas's son Noah, married Chloe Young, and they raised a large family including seven girls.

Christine, the eighth child, was born March 23, 1847. When married Charles Stephens, she was already writing for publication and contributing to such children's magazines as **Our Little Ones**, **Wide Awake**, **St. Nicholas**, and the **Youth's Companion**. Christine continued to write after her marriage, and a story of hers called "His Carnival" appeared on the Children's Page of the **Companion** as late as 1908. Two children, both girls were born of the marriage, Edna Harriet, December 10, 1874, and Janet Christine, February 19, 1877.

In 1883 Dr. Stephens moved into the immense house he had built in Norway near the shores of Lake Pennesseewassee. The reason for the site of the building, which he called "The Laboratory" was that Stephens hoped to gather there a group of fifty biologists and chemists for research and study to develop his theory of the infinite extension of cell life in the human being by renewal of the biogen transmitted with the ovum of inheritance. This plan never materialized but he wrote several volumes dealing with his theories, beginning with **Living Matter** (1888), **Pluricellular Man** 1892, **Long Life** (1896), **Salvation by Science** 1903 and **Immortal Life** (1920). These books were not

offered for sale, but were privately printed and given to interested friends.

After the death of his first wife May 11, 1911, Dr. Stephens married a second time, Minnie Plummer Scalar, the daughter of John and Zilpha (Marshall) Plummer of West Paris. Minnie, born April 15, 1879, had very early shown marked musical ability. At the age of six she was studying piano, at nine she was teaching a piano class of her own, and at sixteen she became the organist at the First Baptist Church in Portland where she studied piano and organ with Hermann Kotzchmar. Edward McDowell and Samuel B. Whitney were among her teachers. Before she was twenty she went to Paris to study organ with Alexander Guilmant and voice with Trobadello.

Her operatic debut (1898) was made in French Opera in "Aida" at The Hague, Holland, before Queen Wilhelmina and the royal family. Under the name Minnie Scalar she sang in Paris, Nice, Amsterdam, and at Covent Garden, London. In 1911 she returned to Maine, where she met Dr. Stephens. After a brief courtship they were married from her parents' home in South Paris, December 26, 1912.

Mrs. Stephens gave up her career entirely and devoted all her efforts to furthering her husband's interests.

After her marriage she learned typing and shorthand to help him in his work, and often illustrated his manuscripts. The marriage was an exceptionally happy one, and perhaps some of Dr. Stephens' youthful appearance was the result of her care and devotion, for he possessed the power of seeming as eternally young as the audience for which he wrote.

In 1929 the magazine to which Stephens had given the literary efforts of a lifetime passed into oblivion with the issue of September, when it merged with the **American Boy**, of Detroit. After the first decade of the twentieth century, the advertising and circulation of the **Companion** had begun to decline. There had been little change in the editorial policies of the paper since Ford's death in 1899,

and the competition from other and newer magazines proved fatal to the *Youth's Companion*. Perhaps the *Companion* had outlived its usefulness. It had been published continually for over a century, and many changes had taken place in the lives and customs of the American people. It had influenced the lives and fostered high ideals in the minds of thousands of youthful readers. It had published stories of interest, value, and entertainment for the entire family, and when it passed out of existence, many of its readers felt that a dear and familiar friend had gone.

C. A. Stephens undoubtedly remained longer with the magazine than any other one contributor. For more than fifty years he wrote exclusively for the *Companion*, and once estimated that he had written more than 3000 short stories and over a hundred serials for the paper. His last story published in the magazine appeared in the issue of July, 1929, just before its merger in September with the *American Boy*.

Charles Asbury Stephens died at the "Laboratory", Norway, Maine, September 22, 1931. His widow survived him by thirteen years, living until January 28, 1944.

THE BOYS' COMIC JOURNAL

by Topchin Twiddlewinks (Esq.)
(W. B. Lawson)

The Boys' Comic Journal was Bretts third big venture in the Boys penny journal line, the other two being the Boys of England, which started November 1866 — and The Young Men of Great Britain, which started November 1868.

The Boys Comic first saw the light on the 14th March 1883, and ran for over 30 half yearly volumes.

It was a well conducted journal, and for some time after it commenced it lived up to its name, and had at least three humorous serials every week.

It started off with a flourish of flags and a fanfare of trumpets and attained a large circulation in the

following years. It is the rarest of all Brett's publications and the writer is still wanting several volumes to complete his set.

The serials in Number one were "Timothy Tinpot" or "The Boy Quixote"; "The Troubles of Mr. Peter Piper" by E. Harcourt Burrage, and "Muddled & Mixed" or "Four Happy Boys" probably by Bracebridge Hemyng.

The best known serials that ran through its pages were "Dark Deeds of Old London" by Justin Lambe, a tale of Colonel Blood and Charles II: "Sons of Foes" by Harold Whyte, and the "Spies of the School" and "The Spies on the Gold Coast" which was Bracebridge Hemyng's work.

There was a fair amount of American material which Brett had borrowed before the copyright Act came into force, amongst which may be mentioned "Fire Feather" by Ned Buntline and "Carl & Charles" by Mrs. Hartwicke, taken from Golden Days. Besides these Colonel Ingraham's works figured extensively in its pages.

It was the same size as Leslie's Boys & Girls Weekly and contained the usual 16 pages per week for one penny, which showed a nice profit every week in Brett's pocket. The back pages were filled up with short tales and advertisements of forthcoming serials in Brett's other journals.

It did not come up to its name of a Comic Journal altogether later on, as in Vol. 16 a serial ran called "The Headsman's Apprentice" and another later on called "Headsman of Old London Bridge." Surely there was nothing comic or funny about having your head separated from your body. The two main subjects for the serials were History and School, as there was always an Historical and School-boys tales running together, the remaining one being probably borrowed from over the Pond.

The one great fault of all of Bretts Journals was the dull monotony of their pages week by week. Three serials to so many pages and the meagre instalments of each serial. In

this connection it may be interesting to mention that Jack Harkaway ran for 13 years without a break.

Towards the end of Vol. 21 dry rot set in. The quality of the paper was of the purest imaginable, and later on it was nothing more nor less than a poor copy of the earlier numbers of *The Young Men of Great Britain*, as only serials which appeared in that paper appeared. This continued until the end in Vol. 31.

Another reason for the decline and fall of this fine old paper was the changing times and the poor value Brett gave the boys for their penny. Boys ideas were changing—they did not want Ghost stories nor Historical stories but stories of Aeroplanes and other present day subjects which Brett did not supply.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Can some one give me the exact dates when these old timers died? James Madison, E. T. Gossett, Frank O'Brien, George Cordier, Sam Nathan, and lately George Hess, Jr.

Bob Smeltzer says business is rotten down there.

When Carl Linville and a buddy of his, both around 18 years old, and strong as bears, worked on a farm near Red Oak, Texas. On 26th of March, 1914, when that particular morning a dark cloud appeared, at around 10 a.m., and it began to rain with sort of a mist with it, so Carl and his friend ran for the shack they stayed in, kept just for the hired help, which contained a small stove, table, chairs, and a straw tick bed, such as it was, with some dishes for meals. In about 13 minutes they heard sort of a roar or low humming and could hear the rain starting to pelt the side of the shack, when Carl looked outside and his friend Eugene yelled they'd better get out of there and go up to a storm cellar near the owners house. At about the time he hollered, it seemed a giant hand grabbed or hit that small shanty and they went a sailing through the air for

about 20 feet when it hit a wire fence and a little hole or sink place in the ground. The shanty broke in half, and threw Carl and Eugene out and everything on top of them, even to a bowl of eggs that were on the table, and rain, hail, water, etc. 6 inches deep. They weren't hurt much but skinned and bruised a little. Some people not far from there were killed, but Carl and Eugene were lucky, they weren't hit with the full force of the cyclone, but it was bad enough, and they don't want to see any more of them either. One experience is enough, eh Carl?

Jim Martin of the West Coast says he's glad to be back to terra firma once more, he sure had a hard pull at the hospital a month or more ago, wasn't sure he'd be able to make the grade, so now he is out, and recuperating, and he sure has a lot to be thankful for.

Has any one seen "The Hollow Tree," a little magazine printed and put out by the printer of the Roundup. If not, send 15¢ for a copy to Miller Print Shop, Lawrence, Kansas. Some pretty nice stuff in them on hobbies, such as stamps, covers, all kinds, amateur printing, magic, post marks, salt and pepper shakers and what not, and some good ads too. If you would like to write to other collectors—especially foreign ones—let him know and he'll put your name in without charge—or you can write some whose letters appear in each issue.

Have you seen #51 of Bill Ganders Story Paper Collector? It is as interesting as ever, and if you want a change of reading, send 10¢ for a copy of it, it's worth your while.

Charlie Bragin has gone, or expects to go into the hospital soon, for an operation. Keep your chin up Pard for you'll be out in no time, and back at the old stamping grounds again.

Bill Burns believes the Ned Nimble Series all came out in the *Young Men of Great Britain*, first. There were some very fine stories in them, you bet.

We understand that the late George

Hess collection was left to the University of Minnesota, and what a collection he had.

Not too long ago Kenneth Daggett, Walter Higgins, and Wm. M. Burns got together for a fine reunion at Bill's home. I expect some old timers too, Jim Martin and Prof. Johannsen soon. Will have more to say about it in the next issue.

We have the very sad news in the loss of a real dear member, Harry M. St. Clair, who died after an operation, poor fellow. We are all going to miss Harry a lot. I have met him personally 2 or 3 times. He was a collector of old dime and nickel novels and story papers, post cards and what-not — anything of interest to him. God bless Harry, no matter where he is, and we, the Brotherhood send our sincerest sympathy to his dear wife, for we all know just how she feels.

Bob Smeltzer says, lest we forget, 20 years ago our old favorites were installed in the rare book room of the Library of Congress, Washington D. C.

Roy E. Morris still has a nice lot of uncut Secret Service in the 2 and 300s on hand for sale, pards, also Eli Messier and Ralph P. Smith.

Denis R. Rogers took a trip to California and back, by auto. Says it was a swell trip, and he was able to get some of his wants.

An old timer is back with us again, Arvid Dahlstedt. He has been very sick for over a year. Glad you are back with us, and that you are feeling much better.

The next issue of the Round-up will contain "Boys Books written by Capt. F. S. Brereton" by William M. Burns.

SMELTZER ASKS: Brother D. N. Collectors, have you ever heard tell of a single, complete, published listing of 1075 dime novels; the same being contained in a single issue of a 5¢ weekly novel? Betcha you haven't, nor seen such a list. I have, and I've never seen any pink elephants, so

much talked about in our current newspapers.

To ease your anxiety, let me tell you of #842; Wide Awake Library; humorous story of "Jack Ready's School Scrapes," by Peter Pad.

The lists runs from No. 1 to 1075, inclusive. What an array of talent contained therein. No. 1 was "Tom Brown's School Days," by Thomas Hughes; #2 "The Pirate," by Captain Marryatt; #3 "The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," by Daniel Defoe; the three of them real old-timers of a past school of readers, as you well know.

What a galaxy of first-class writers: J. G. Bradley, Marline Manly, Col. Ralph Fenton, Wm. Carleton, James D. Montague, Bernard Wayde, H. K. Shackelford, D. W. Stevens, Roger Starbuck, Noname, Howard DeVere, and many others.

Just a few of the interesting tales: Jack of the Plains, or the Headless Horseman, Pawnee Bill and the Oklahoma Boomers, The Brookfield Bank Robbery, Skeleton Gulch, and so on.

Many "Comics" by Peter Pad and Tom Teaser intersperse the blood-and-thunder sagas. Also, Frank Reade is well represented by Noname.

What happiness, I ask, could a mint set of these 1075 stories, bring to a dyed-in-the-wool D. N. collector? You're asking me, brother.

THAR'S GOLD IN 'EM HILLS

An old saying: Seek and ye shall find. Brothers, why not spend a few dollars on advertising for dime novels? If we do not search we shall not find. The little country paper, for instance, may bring you good rewards. Your ad must be to the point, for brevity is the soul of wit, so they say. For instance, an ad like the following tells your story in a nutshell:

AD

WANTED, for cash, old-time boys' weeklies and story-papers. Give description, quantity and asking price. Look in your attic.

(your name and address)

—Bob Smeltzer

(Advertisements)

EXCHANGE COLUMN

For sale or trade—Several hundred Popular Magazines 1911 to 1930 in nice clean condition. J. P. Guinon, 2314 Izard St., Little Rock, Ark.

For Sale—150 Tip Tops. Bernard W. Davis, Apple Hill Farm, Panacook, N. H.

For Sale — Weird Tales, Science Fiction, British Mags. U. S. mint stamps in blocks, full sheets,, etc. Arvid Dahlstedt, P. O. Box 133, Great Barrington, Mass.

Wanted — Golden Weekly #102, Rough Rider #36 72 81 83 91 112 113 114 162 170. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Wanted Weird Tales, Tales of Magic and Mystery, Amazing Stories, All Story, Cavalie and many others. Have Doc Savages to trade. M. McNeil, 5542 Tilbury Drive, Houston 19, Tex.

For Trade — Castlemon, Kellogg,

Henty, Ellis, Otis, Reid, Optic for dime novels containing railroad stories, All Around, Young Klondike and certain Castlemons, Ellis and Optic. L. D. Webster, RFD #1 Box 36, Lake Worth, Fla.

Wanted—Robbers of Caracas, by Capt. Ralph Barnacle. Mrs. S. T. Hoyt, 1970 Ualakaa St., Honolulu, T. H.

For Sale. Adventure Library #68 70 74, Buffalo Bill Border Stories #1 Merriwell Series #20 186 203, Medal Library #376. J. R. Schorr, 11572 S. Cypress, Orange, Calif.

MERRIWELL STORIES

in Tip Top Weekly
BOUGHT and SOLD

J. P. GUINON

2314 Izard St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 35. J. P. Guinon, 2314 Izard St., Little Rock, Ark. (new address)
- 8. George French, Kezar Falls, Maine (new address)
- 208. Bernard W. Davis, Apple Hill Farm, Penacook, N. H. (new member)
- 154. Edmund L. Kowalczyk, 73 Moore Ave., Worcester 2, Mass. (new add.)
- 209. Denver Public Library, Serials Division, Denver 2, Colo. (new member)
- 164. Denis R. Rogers, 3rd Floor, Imperial Bank Bldg., Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (new address)

BOOKS WANTED

Will Pay \$25.00 Each

Horatio Alger, Jr.—Tony The Hero, or, Tony The Tramp, Ogilvie, 1880

Finding a Fortune, Penn, 1904

Young Book Agent, Stitt, 1905

(Above are cloth-bound books. Must be first editions.)

Leather Clad Tales (Wrappers)—Erie Train Boy, #26

Dean Dunham, #32

Mark Stanton, #25

Will Pay \$50 for each of following

Ralph Raymond's Heir, by Arthur Hamilton, Gleason, 1869 (paper wrappers)

Timothy Crump's Ward, Anonymous, published by Loring's Railway Companion Series, 1866 (paper wrappers)

Charles K. Boston

521 N. Bristol Ave.

West Los Angeles, Calif.

THE DEADWOOD DICK LIBRARY

Latest and Best. Handsome Tri-Colored Covers.

32 Pages

BUY ONE AND YOU WILL BUY THE REST

32 Pages

Price 25¢ per copy.

3. The Buffalo Demon; or, The Border Vultures.
4. Buffalo Ben, Prince of the Pistol.
5. Wild Ivan, the Boy Claud Duval.
6. Death-Face, the Detective.
7. The Phantom Miner; or, Deadwood Dick's Bonanza.
8. Old Avalanche, the Great Annihilator; or, Wild Edna, the Girl Brigand.
9. Bob Woolf, the Border Ruffian.
10. Omaha Oll, the Masked Terror; or, Deadwood Dick in Danger.
11. Jim Bludsoe, Jr., the Boy Phoenix or, Through to Death.
12. Deadwood Dick's Eagles; or, The Pard of Flood Bar.
13. Buckhorn Bill; or, The Red Rifle Team.
14. Gold Rifle, the Sharpshooter.
15. Deadwood Dick on Deck; or, Calamity Jane.
16. Corduroy Charlie, the Boy Bravo.
17. Rosebud Rob; or, Nugget Ned, The Knight of the Gulch.
18. Idyl, the Girl Miner; or, Rosebud Rob on Hand.
19. Photograph Phil; or, Rosebud Rob's Reappearance.
20. Watch-Eye, the Shadow.
21. Deadwood Dick's Device; or, The Sign of the Double Cross.
22. Canada Chet, the Counterfeit Chief.
23. Deadwood Dick in Leadville; or, A Strange Stroke for Liberty.
24. Deadwood Dick as Detective.
25. Gilt-Edge Dick.
26. Bonanza Bill, the Man-Tracker; or, The Secret Twelve.
27. Chip, the Girl Sport.
28. Jack Hoyle's Lead; or, The Road to Fortune.
29. Boss Bob, the King of Bootblacks.
31. Blond Bill; or, Deadwood Dick's Home Base.
32. Solid Sam; the Boy Road-Agent.
33. Tony Fox, the Ferret; or, Boss Bob's Boss Job.
34. A Game of Gold; or, Deadwood Dick's Big Strike.
35. Deadwood Dick of Deadwood; or the Picked Party.
36. New York Nell, the Boy-Girl Detective.
37. Nobby Nick of Nevada; or, the Scamps of the Sierras.
38. Wild Frank, the Buckskin Bravo.
39. Deadwood Dick's Doom; or, Calamity Jane's Last Adventure.
40. Deadwood Dick's Dream; or, The Rivals of the Road.
41. Deadwood Dick's Ward; or, The Black Hills Jezebel.
42. The Arab Detective; or, Snoozor, the Boy Sharp.
43. The Ventriloquist Detective. A Romance of Rogues.
44. Detective Josh Grim; or, The Young Gladiator's Game.
45. The Frontier Detective; or, Sierra Sam's Scheme.
46. Jimtown Sport; or, Gypsy Jack in Colorado.
47. The Miner Sport; or, Sugar-Coated Sam's Claim.
48. Dick Drew, the Miner's Son; or, Apollo Bill, the Road-Agent.
49. Sierra Sam, the Detective.
50. Sierra Sam's Double; or, The Three Female Detectives.
51. Sierra Sam's Sentence; or, Little Luck at Roun Ranch.
52. The Girl Sport; or, Jumbo Joe's Disguise.
53. Denver Doll's Device; or, The Detective Queen.
54. Denver Doll as Detective.
55. Denver Doll's Partner; or, Big Buckskin, the Sport.
56. Denver Doll's Mine; or, Little Bill's Big Loss.
57. Deadwood Dick Trapped.
58. Buck Hawk, Detective; or, The Messenger Boy's Fortune.
59. Deadwood Dick's Disguise; or, Wild Walt, the Sport.

Sent postpaid.

Old Novels and Story Papers Bought and Sold

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.